

RURAL DISTRICT OF  
CASTLE WARD

---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF  
THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR AND  
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

FOR 1968



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# *Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
PONTELAND.  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report for 1968.

The vital statistics are set out. One feature, commented on last year, is the low birth rate. When allowance is made for the age structure of the district the rate, 8.8, is only 52% of the national rate of 16.9. The national rate has been falling slowly since 1964 and the rate for Northumberland and Newcastle has been falling more rapidly and is now about a fifth below the national rate. Castle Ward's birth rate has been falling much more quickly. As explained in last year's report the most likely reason for this is that the main influx into the district is of established families. Indeed we now have the paradoxical situation that our birth rate is very low but the number of children is very high.

Apart from the matter commented on there has been little infectious disease and tuberculosis remains at a low rate.

Once again I would like to thank the members of the Council for their interest in and support of the work of the Health Department.

Yours faithfully,

H. C. T. SMITH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

### PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT

Area in acres ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82,846
Registrar General's estimated population..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36,350
Number of habitable houses (including 228 not separately assessed)	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,962
Sum represented by penny rate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£5,450
Rateable Value ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,336,792

### CHANGES IN POPULATION

1951 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14,570
1956 ..	..	..	..	..	..	17,470
1961 ..	..	..	..	..	..	25,330
1962 ..	..	..	..	..	..	26,590
1963 ..	..	..	..	..	..	28,220
1964 ..	..	..	..	..	..	29,310
1965 ..	..	..	..	..	..	32,040
1966 ..	..	..	..	..	..	33,470
1967 ..	..	..	..	..	..	34,820
1968 ..	..	..	..	..	..	36,350

## VITAL STATISTICS — 1968

	<i>Numbers</i>		
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total Rates</i>
TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS.. .. .	191	183	374
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population ..			10.3
Comparability factor 0.86			
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population			8.8
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS .. .. .	8	9	17
Illegitimate live birth rate per 100 live births .. .. .			4.6
STILLBIRTHS .. .. .	2	2	4
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			10.6
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths in first year) ..	3	2	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			13.4
ILLEGITIMATE INFANT DEATHS .. .. .	..		Nil
NEONATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first four weeks) .. .. .	3	2	5
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. .. .			13.4
PERINATAL DEATHS (Deaths in first week plus stillbirths) .. .. .	4	4	8
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths.. .. .	..		21.2
MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion)..			Nil
TOTAL DEATHS .. .. .	256	265	521
Crude death rate per 1,000 population			14.3
Comparability factor 0.73			
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population			10.4

## COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

	Adjusted Birth Rate	Illegitimate Birth Rate	Still- birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Adjusted Death Rate
1956-60	16.2	1.7	15.9	17.4	13.4	29.0	11.0
1961-65	15.4	2.5	16.0	18.5	14.1	28.0	11.6
1966	11.4	5.1	15.9	18.5	11.6	27.3	11.1
1967	11.5	4.8	6.6	17.6	15.4	21.8	8.5
1968	8.8	4.6	10.6	13.4	13.4	21.2	10.4

# COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS — 1968

	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegitimate birth Rate	Still birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)	Comparability Factors	
									Births	Deaths
England and Wales ..	16.9	8.4	14.3	18.3	12.3	24.7	0.2	11.9	1.00	1.00
Northumberland Admin. County ..	14.2	5.8	13.6	16.5	11.6	23.1	Nil.	13.1	1.00	1.03
South Area of Northumberland ..	12.4	4.7	8.2	15.8	9.6	13.6	Nil	12.4	0.93	0.94
Castle Ward Rural District	8.8	4.6	10.6	13.4	13.4	21.2	Nil.	10.4	0.86	0.73



## CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

	<i>Under 1 week</i>	<i>1 — 4 weeks</i>
Prematurity ..	2	—
Rhesus incompatibility	1	—
Congenital abnormalities—		
Oesophageal atresia	1	—
Multiple .. ..	—	1
	4	1

## CAUSES OF STILLBIRTH

Prolapsed Cord .. ..	1
Congenital abnormalities .. ..	
Multiple .. ..	1
Hydrocephalus .. ..	1
Anencephalus .. ..	1

## PLACE OF DEATH

	Home	Hospital and Institution	Total
A. Deaths in District ..	138	318	456
B. Outward Transfers ..	9	58	67
C. Remaining deaths in District (A—B) ..	129	260	389
D. Inward Transfers ..	124	8	132
E. Total deaths assigned district (C + D) ..	253	268	521

## PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	Home		Hospital and Institution		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cancer .. ..	57	(22.5)	12	(4.5)	69	(13.3)
Cerebro-vascular disease ..	33	(13.0)	80	(29.8)	113	(21.5)
Ischaemic heart disease ..	75	(29.6)	71	(26.5)	146	(28.0)
Other heart and circulatory disease .. ..	37	(14.7)	26	(9.6)	63	(12.1)
Respiratory disease ..	21	(8.3)	46	(17.2)	67	(12.9)
All other diseases ..	22	(8.7)	19	(7.1)	41	(7.9)
Violence .. ..	8	(3.2)	14	(5.3)	22	(4.3)
	253		268		521	

# CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGES DURING 1968

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CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS							65—	75 and over
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—		
B6 Other Tuberculosis, inc. Late Effects	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
B18 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm— Stomach ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm— Lung, Bronchus ..	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm— Breast ..	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	1
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm— Uterus ..	F	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	1	2
B19(5) Leukaemia ..	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
B19(6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. ..	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
B46(3) Mental Disorders	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46(4) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	M	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	3	6	10
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ..	F	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	1
B27 Hypertensive Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease..	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease ..	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease ..	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3
	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	21	11	35
	M	71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	16	53
	F	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	10
	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12
	F	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	12	34
	M	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	12	43



ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

		25 +	35 +	45 +	55 +	65 +	75 +	Total
<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents :</i>								
Pedestrian/Motor car	M	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pedestrian/Bus	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
<i>All other accidents :</i>								
Falls : Fractured femur	M	—	—	—	(1)	—	(1)	(2)
	F	—	—	—	—	—	4 (8)	(9)
Other fractures	M	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)
Overdose of drugs	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intestinal obstruction	M	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	(1)
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL		(1)	1	1	(1)	(1)	(2) 5 (9)	1 (4) 6 (10)

Figures in brackets refer to deaths in hospitals and institutions within the district

## DEATHS FROM CANCER

PRIMARY SITE			AGE								TOTAL	
			5+	15+	25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	75+		
Mouth ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Maxillary antrum ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	
Oesophagus ..	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Stomach ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	1 (1)	—	2 (2)	(3)	
	F	—	—	—	—	(1)	2	—	1	3 (1)	(1)	
Pancreas..	M	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1 (1)	3 (1)	(1)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Duodenum ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Colon ..	M	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	4	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1 (1)	(1)	
Rectum ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	
Larynx ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lung ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	4	6 (1)	1 (1)	11 (2)	(2)	
	F	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	6	—	
Thyroid ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
Kidney ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	
Bladder ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2 (1)	(1)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Prostate ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	3	3 (1)	(1)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Breast ..	F	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	4	—	
	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Uterus (cervix) ..	F	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
,, (body) ..	F	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	—	(1)	
	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Skin (Melanoma)	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Medulloblastoma	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Sarcoma ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
Leukaemia ..	M	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS ..	M	2	1	—	2	3	8	12 (3)	8 (6)	36	(9)	
	F	—	—	1	2	4 (1)	6 (1)	6 —	2 (1)	21	(3)	

*Figures in brackets refer to deaths in hospitals and institutions within the district.*

**DEATHS FROM CANCER OF LUNG SINCE 1964**  
(Male)

	Age					
	35+	45+	55+	65+	75+	Total
1964	1	3	4	5	1	14
1965	1	—	5	2	3	11
1966	—	3	6	9	—	18
1967	1	1	6	5	2	15
1968	—	—	4	7	2	13
TOTAL	3	7	25	28	8	71

(Female)

1964	—	—	2	—	—	2
1965	—	—	1	1	—	2
1966	—	1	—	2	1	4
1967	—	—	1	1	2	4
1968	1	2	1	1	1	6
TOTAL	1	3	5	5	4	18

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES, 1968

	NEW CASES				INWARD TRANSFERS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
AGE PERIODS	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
15—24 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 ..	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—44 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—74 ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
75+ ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Total ..	3	2	—	1	2	3	—	—



**TUBERCULOSIS : Comparison with previous years**

	NEW CASES		INWARD TRANSFERS		DEATHS
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul. & Non-Pul.
Average 1951-55	7	3	5	1	3
Average 1956-60	7	2	14	2	1
Average 1961-65	8	2	12	—	1
1966 ..	4	2	17	2	1
1967 ..	7	1	2	1	3
1968	5	1	5	—	1

**STATEMENT OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1968**

	No. of cases on Register at beginning of year		New Notifications		Inward Transfers		No. of cases removed from Register		No. of cases remaining at end of year	
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
Males	33	20	3	—	2	—	4	—	34	20
Females	27	10	2	1	3	—	4	—	28	11
Total	60	30	5	1	5	—	8	—	62	31



YEARLY RETURN OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - 1967

Disease	0 - 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 64	Age unknown	Total
Measles ..	11	232	132	6	—	7	388
Whooping Cough ..	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Scarlet Fever..	—	1	16	2	—	—	19
Acute Pneumonia ..	—	1	—	4	—	—	5
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Infective Hepatitis ..	—	—	2	1	2	—	5
Dysentery ..	—	1	2	1	—	—	4

MONTH OF NOTIFICATION :

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles ..	5	9	14	34	75	128	108	10	1	—	4	—	388
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
Scarlet Fever ..	—	2	3	6	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	19
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Infective hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	5
Dysentery	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During 1968 changes were made in the procedure for notifying infectious diseases. On June 15th infective jaundice became notifiable and on October 1st the list of notifiable diseases was altered.

The diseases now to be notified are :—

Acute encephalitis	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Acute meningitis	Paratyphoid fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Plague
Anthrax	Relapsing fever
Cholera	Scarlet fever
Diphtheria	Smallpox
Dysentery	Tetanus
(amoebic or bacillary)	Tuberculosis
Infective jaundice	Typhoid fever
Leprosy	Typhus
Leptospirosis	Whooping cough
Malaria	Yellow fever
Measles	

Notification of the following is no longer required :—

Acute influenzal pneumonia	Erysipelas
Acute primary pneumonia	Membranous croup
Acute rheumatism	Puerperal pyrexia

The notification fee payable to practitioners has been increased to 5/-d.

### Food Poisoning

(1) A mild outbreak of food poisoning involved 30 - 40 air training corps cadets at a local R.A.F. station. The boys, on a fortnight's course, had travelled to Cumberland for the day. There, cheese sandwiches were consumed. These had been prepared by eight of the boys in the cook-house at the station. The sandwiches were consumed at 1 p.m. and about 4 p.m. on the way home by bus a number of the boys were ill. In the course of the evening further cases arose, including some boys who had not been on the trip but who may have consumed cheese at supper that evening. By the next day most of the cases had recovered.

None of the sandwiches remained for examination and a piece of cheese from the same block was sent to the laboratory but no pathogenic organisms were grown. Laboratory culture of faeces were all negative. It is thought that this was probably an outbreak of staphylococcal food poisoning.

(2) The Pilot and First Officer of an aircraft which left Newcastle Airport, called at two points on the Mediterranean and subsequently returned to the Airport, developed symptoms of food poisoning. On the flight, which had been subject to several delays, they consumed a meal of pre cooked frozen food. The food had been kept hot for several hours, quite contrary to the manufacturer's instructions. Symptoms started about eight hours after consuming the food. Specimens were taken from the two cases but no pathogenic bacteria was grown.

### Infective Hepatitis

This disease became notifiable in June 1968. Only five sporadic cases were notified.

**Meningitis**

A child from this area was admitted to hospital in Newcastle and a clinical diagnosis of meningococcal meningitis was made. Although no meningococci were grown from the case, per-nasal swabs were taken from all members of the family and one of these was positive for meningococcus.

**Influenza**

There was an outbreak of influenza at the beginning of 1968 affecting particularly a large mental hospital in the area. There were eight deaths there attributed to influenza and an increase in the number of deaths due to other respiratory diseases.

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

At the beginning of 1968 a new schedule of vaccination was introduced as follows :—

1	4 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
2	6 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
3	12 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
4	2nd year	Measles
5	2nd year	Smallpox
6	4 - 5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis
7	10 - 12 years	B.C.G. (to those negative to skin test)
8	On leaving school	Tetanus and Oral Polioymelitis

This schedule substantially reduces the total number of injections and should be easier to operate.

In the Spring of 1968 measles vaccination was introduced. Unfortunately there was an initial scarcity of vaccine and at the same time quite a sharp outbreak of measles, particularly in the Ponteland area. The result was that a substantial number of children who were due to be injected developed measles before this was possible. However subsequently over 600 susceptible children were immunised. The measles outbreak expected in the winter 1968 - 69 did not in fact take place.

The numbers immunised are given in the table which follows. Since from early 1968 the courses of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and poliomyelitis immunisation are not completed till the child is aged 12 months compared with 7 months previously, the figures are not comparable with previous years. However there is still reason to believe that almost all children in the district are immunised against these diseases. About half the children receive smallpox vaccination.

## NUMBERS IMMUNISED DURING 1968

	YEAR OF BIRTH						Total
	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961 -64	1952 -60	
Primary Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus .. ..	43	222	15	1	—	—	281
Primary Diphtheria/Tetanus	—	—	—	—	1	16	24
Primary Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Primary Tetanus .. ..	—	1	—	—	2	11	14
Reinforcing Diphtheria / Pertussis/Tetanus ..	—	12	265	61	82	10	430
Reinforcing Diphtheria/Tetanus .. ..	—	1	8	9	373	41	432
Reinforcing Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	2	7	9
Reinforcing Tetanus ..	—	2	2	—	2	81	87
Primary Poliomyelitis ..	40	264	20	7	10	4	345
Reinforcing Poliomyelitis	1	16	254	54	416	211	952
Primary Smallpox Vaccination .. ..	10	160	35	14	14	6	239
Re-vaccination .. ..	—	—	1	4	12	15	32
Measles Vaccination ..	2	79	84	83	344	16	608
B.C.G. Vaccination ..	—	—	—	—	—	279	279

## NEWCASTLE AIRPORT

Only three calls were received in connection with public health control and one in connection with medical inspection of immigrants. The health control unit is kept in readiness for these purposes but is used more for first aid treatment of casualties. At the health control unit a small quantity of smallpox vaccine is kept in case any incoming travellers require vaccination. During 1968 smallpox vaccination was offered to all staff in contact with the travelling public and some eighty persons were vaccinated.



# Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent 1968

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ended 31st December 1968.

Routine work in connection with public cleansing, housing, food hygiene, offices and shops, and meat and food inspection has been steadily maintained. Details of the progress made in these and other aspects of the work of the department are given in the main body of the report.

During the period under review the Report of the Committee on the Management of Local Government (The Maud Committee) was considered by the Council. A number of recommendations in the report have been adopted and implemented. A greater degree of delegation has been given to officers and matters of report to Committees have in many instances been curtailed.

As in previous years the erection of new houses continued at a steady pace, and in this connection 114 dwellings were built for private ownership. The Castle Ward Council provided 108 houses and Newcastle Corporation 154 at Newbiggin Hall. The housing development on the Newbiggin Hall Estate by Newcastle Corporation is virtually completed ; this has been a considerable help in organising the routes for domestic refuse collection.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

The following milk distributors are registered under the milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 :—

#### REGISTERED DISTRIBUTORS :

Messrs. W. & J. Pearson, 2 Grey Street, Brunswick Village.  
E. & G. Bell, 12 Grey Street, Brunswick Village.  
Mr. H. J. Farquhar, 10 Queensway, Brunton Park.  
Mr. H. Thompson, Hawthorn Cottage, Brunton Lane.  
Mr. J. A. Herron, 16 Woodside, Darras Hall.  
Mr. D. N. Sutherland, 2 Downend Road, Westerhope.  
Mr. J. H. Brown, Ivy House, Kenton Bank Foot.  
Mrs. M. U. White, North Mason Farm, Dinnington.  
Mr. J. Hudspeth, North Brunton Farm, North Gosforth.  
Mr. J. F. Smith, West House Farm, Stannington.  
Messrs. Langley Brothers, 26 Holding, Station Road, Stannington.  
Ashington Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd.  
Newcastle Co-operative Society Ltd.  
Throckley & District Co-operative Society Ltd.  
Cramlington Co-operative Society Ltd.

Samples of milk taken by the County Health Inspector during the year under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960 and their examination results are as follows :—

Untreated	..	..	..	15
Pasteurised	..	..	..	23
				—
				38
				—

Of these, five samples of 'Tuberculin Tested' and four samples of 'Pasteurised' milk failed to satisfy the methylene blue test ; the remainder satisfied the prescribed tests.

### FOOD PREMISES

There are 180 food premises in the district as follows :—

Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	9
Butchers..	..	..	12
Canteens (Industrial)	..	..	5
Chemists..	..	..	6
Clubs	..	..	10
Food Manufacturers	..	..	3
Fried and Wet Fish Shops	..	..	2
Groceries and Provisions	..	..	22
General Dealers..	..	..	26
Greengrocers	..	..	5
Hospital and Institution Kitchens	..	..	10
Public Houses and Off-Licences	..	..	36
Restaurants, Cafes, Snack-bars	..	..	14
School Kitchens and Dining Rooms	..	..	18
Slaughterhouses..	..	..	2
			—
			180
			—

Of these premises 53 are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the following purposes :—

Sale of Ice-Cream	..	..	..	42
Manufacture of Sausage and Preserved				
Meats	..	..	..	11
				—
				53
				—

### FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 1966

Nineteen mobile shops were inspected during the year.

Whilst the standard of cleanliness is good, generally, most vehicles being purpose made, several vendors seem oblivious to the need to take extra care in protecting open foods from risk of contamination. This was apparent particularly where unwrapped cakes and confectionery were sold. One would assume that, where open food is displayed within such confined space, this hazard would be obvious. Apparently this is not the case, as experience shows.



All but one vehicle had washing facilities. Of the remainder, only six carried water at a suitable temperature for hand washing. Most insulated containers on the market today must be replenished with hot water two or three times per day to comply with the regulations, which most van salesmen fail to realize.

### ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1959

Sixteen samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for examination by the Public Health Laboratory.

Results were as follows :—

Provisional Grade 1	..	..	12
„ „ 3	..	..	2
„ „ 4	..	..	2

Of the unsatisfactory samples, both Grade 4 samples were from an establishment which retails from bulk ice-cream containers. It was suggested that they reduce the size of their containers during the winter period, thus shortening the length of storage by having a more frequent turnover. This was done and subsequent samples have been found to be satisfactory.

Further samples from the two retailers providing the Grade 3 samples were also found to be satisfactory.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 — SAMPLING OF FOOD

The Northumberland County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority are responsible for sampling under this heading and 125 samples were taken in the Castle Ward area during the year.

The following information has been supplied by Mr. C. L. Arlidge, Chief Inspector, County Weights and Measures Department :—

Particulars of samples taken in Castle Ward Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1968

All Butter Rings	Chocolate Flavoured	Ground Nut
Almond Marzipan	Crunch	Cooking Oil
Beef Sausages	Concentrated Orange	Honey
Beef Sausage Meat	Squash	Instant Blackcurrant
Beef Sizzles	Condensed Tomato	Drink
Bismuthated Magnesia	Puree	Instant Peas
Powder	Corn Oil	Instant Tea
Blackcurrant Health	Creamed Horseradish	Jaffa Grapefruit Juice
Drink	Creamed Tapioca	Lard
Blackcurrant Throat	Milk Pudding	Leicester Cheese
Pastilles	Custard Powder	Lemon Cheese
Butter	Dripping	Lemon Curd
Butter Mints	Edam Cheese	Lemon Vinegar
Butter Mixture	Fish Cakes	Lime Juice Cordial
Butter Shortcake	Florida Orange Squash	Low Fat Soft Cheese
Butter Shortbread	Fruit Chutney	Malt Vinegar
Comphorated Oil B.P.	Fruit Peetin	Menthol & Eucaly
Castor Oil B.P.	Glycerine B.P.	Oil Tablets
Cheese Food	Grape Juice	Milk
Cheese Sauce Mix	Gravy Mix	Milk Arrowroot
Cheese Snips	Ground Ginger	Biscuits

Milk Gums	Raspberry Jam	Tangerine Drink
Minced Beef & Onions	Soft Brown Sugar	Tomato Juice
Mincemeat	Spry Fry	Tomato Ketchup
Old English	Spry Puff	Tomato Soup
Cowslip Wine	Super Saccharin	Whisky
Pork Sausages	Tablets	Zinc & Castor Oil
Prepared Mustard with	Sultana Pudding	Cream B.P.
White Wine	Sweet Tops	
Total number of samples taken .. .. .		125
Number sent to Analyst .. .. .		79
Number genuine .. .. .		124
Number unsatisfactory .. .. .		1
Number of milk samples (including 4 samples taken		
at schools) .. .. .		44

### Particulars of Unsatisfactory Sample

#### FLORIDA ORANGE SQUASH — No. MR 651

This was a sample of comminuted citrus drink intended for consumption after dilution and was devoid of added sugar.

The Soft Drinks Regulations, 1964, require 22½ lb. sugar to be added to every 10 gallons of squash.

Manufacturer fined £100 0s. 0d. with £8 10s. 0d. costs.

### Complaints of Unsound Food

#### Food and Drugs Act 1955 — Section 2

One case of unsound food was reported to the department during the year. This concerned the purchase of two mince and onion pies which were affected with mould. The Council resolved not to take formal action on this occasion and instead, instructed that a warning letter be sent to the establishment concerned.

### MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1959 AND FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 — SECTION 31 CIRCULAR 17/66

Three producer samples of untreated milk were examined for brucella abortus and found to be negative.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the District and both are equipped so as to comply with the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, and regulations made thereunder :—

E. Lumley & Son, Brewery Yard, Stamfordham.

R. Manners & Sons Ltd., Meadowfield, Ponteland.

Permitted hours of slaughtering are stipulated by the Council in accordance with their powers under the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, and 100% meat inspection is maintained at both slaughterhouses.

The Northumbrian Chicken Company Limited, Meadowfield, operate a broiler processing plant handling some 30,000 birds per week. The company have 55 growers under contract, five of them in this District. The premises comply in all respects to the Food Hygiene Regulations.

At present the establishment is visited weekly, but arrangements are in hand to operate a daily inspection. This plant does not process any birds other than broilers, the rearing of which is subject to a high standard of control. The major condemnation is of birds which have died during transit and those which are emaciated. A more accurate picture of condemnation will be obtained when daily inspection commences. Although it is not anticipated that any marked degree of condemnation will be due to disease bearing in mind the short life span of the broiler bird, i.e. 56 days.

#### **SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958**

The Council is a Licensing Authority under Section 3 of this Act and 12 renewals of licences to slaughter animals were issued during the year.

## DETAILS OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Normal Kill .. .. .	6221	607	18	19914	5515	32275
Casualties .. .. .	31	11	2	129	23	196
Number examined .. .. .	6252	618	20	20053	5538	32471
<b>CARCASES CONDEMNED WHOLLY OR IN PART :</b>						
<b>A. All Diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci—</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	14	2	7	71	25	119
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3626	403	—	1906	1311	7246
<b>B. Tuberculosis only :</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	7	—	—	—	3	10
<b>C. Cysticercosis :</b>						
Whole Carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2	—	—	1	—	3



## DETAILS OF MEAT AND OTHER ORGANS CONDEMNED, SURRENDERED AND DISPOSED OF

### FOR TUBERCULOSIS

#### Pigs :

Heads .. .. 3

#### Bovine :

Carcases .. 1

Mesenteric Fat 1

Lungs .. .. 5 sets

### FOR OTHER DEFINED DISEASES

#### Bovine :

Head and .. 25 Congested Lymph Gland 3, Retropharyngeal  
Tongues .. Abscesses 5, Abscesses 4, Actinobacillosis 10,  
Actinomycosis 2, Submaxillary Abscesses 1.

Hearts.. .. 29 Pericarditis 25, Peritonitis 2, Cysticercus  
Bovis 2.

Kidneys .. 17 Contiguous Abscesses 8 Retention Cysts 6,  
Nephritis 1, Hydronephrosis 1, Peritonitis 1.

Livers (whole)..1681 Abscesses 85, Fascioliasis 1535.  
Peritonitis 19. Telangiectasis 38, Fatty  
Infiltration 3 Melanosis 1

(part)..1626 Fascioliasis

Lungs .. .. 639 Fascioliasis 423, Melanosis 1, Pleurisy 174.  
Pneumonia 18, Abscesses 18, Emphysema 5.

Mesenteric Fat 3 Peritonitis 3.

Spleen .. .. 3 Peritonitis 3.

Thick Skirt .. 6 Peritonitis 6.

Beef .. .. 97½ Bruising and Oedema 41, Malformation 4½,  
stones Mastitis ¾, Traumatism 9, Arthritis 50½,  
Abscesses 9¼.

Carcases .. 23 Bruising and Oedema 3, Johnes Disease,  
(308¾ stones) Emaciation and Oedema 3, Immaturity 4,  
Septic Pneumonia and Oedema 1, Septicaemia  
5, Arthritis 2, Peritonitis and Pyaemia 5.

#### Sheep :

Heart .. .. 4 Pericarditis 3, Cysticercus Bovis 1.

Kidneys .. 6 Fat Necrosis 4, Nephritis 2.

Liver .. ..1131 Cysticercus Tenuicollis 55, Fascioliasis 959,  
Fatty Degeneration 3, Peritonitis 7, Ill Bled  
1, Parasites 105, Abscesses 1.

Lungs .. .. 737 Pneumonia 238, Muellerius Capillaris 475,  
Fascioliasis 2, Ill Bled 1, Pleurisy 15, Parasites  
6.

Pluck .. .. 2 Pleurisy, Peritonitis and Pericarditis 2.

Mutton	.. 13	Immaturity $1\frac{3}{4}$ , Arthritis $7\frac{3}{4}$ , Pneumonia $\frac{1}{2}$ , stone Metritis $1\frac{3}{4}$ , Abscesses $\frac{1}{4}$ , Pleurisy $\frac{1}{4}$ , Traumatism 2, Gangrene $\frac{1}{4}$ .
Carcases	.. 71 (245 stones)	Arthritis, Malformation and Oedema 3, Emaciation and Oedema 44, Septic Pneumonia and Pleurisy 7, Moribund 2, Prolapsed Rectum 1, Pregnancy Toxemia 3, Septic Peritonitis 1, Pyrexia 1, Traumatism 3, Gangrene 1, Abscesses 1, Immaturity 1, Pyaemia 3.
<b>Pigs :</b>		
Heads ..	.. 10	Corynebacterium Equi 4, Abscesses 3, Submaxillary Abscesses 2, Traumatism 1.
Heart ..	.. 66	Pericarditis 66.
Liver ..	.. 305	Ascaris Lumbricoides 271, Peritonitis 25, ill Bled 1, Parasites 8.
Lungs ..	.. 869	ill Bled 12, Pleurisy 59, Pneumonia 798.
Plucks ..	.. 39	Pericarditis, Peritonitis, Pleurisy 39.
Stomach and		
Intestines ..	.. 1	Enteritis 1.
Pork ..	.. $14\frac{1}{2}$ stones	Abscesses 4, Septic Arthritis $3\frac{1}{2}$ , Traumatism $7\frac{1}{4}$ .
Carcases	.. 25	Pyaemia 3, Pyrexia 2, Emaciation and Oedema 8, Septicaemia 2, Septic Arthritis 1, Acute Arthritis and Oedema 1, Pleurisy, Nephritis, Malformation and Ill Bled 2, Septic Arthritis and Emaciation 2, Methemoglobin 4.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF FOOD ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED  
AND INSPECTED IN PAST EIGHT YEARS**

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Cattle (ex-								
cows)	1,385	1,183	1,091	5,238	5,807	5,142	6,088	6,252
Cows ..	318	332	296	956	1,090	804	618	618
Calves ..	358	351	417	277	168	162	147	20
Sheep and								
Lambs	6,828	6,048	6,606	19,083	14,772	18,885	19,174	20,053
Pigs ..	411	487	388	4,210	6,256	6,663	5,672	5,538
	9,300	8,401	8,771	29,764	28,093	31,656	31,699	32,481

**PRE-PACKED AND CANNED FOODS**

The following were condemned as unsound :—

Canned Meats .. ..	6 lbs.
Other Canned Foods .. ..	36 lbs.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of household refuse throughout the thirteen parishes covering an area of one hundred and thirty square miles was maintained, not however without difficulty. Time lost through sickness was on the basis of two men absent all the year.

It has always been Council policy that no work is carried over to the following week ; this has inevitably resulted in a certain amount of overtime.

A free service is provided for the collection and disposal of bulky household articles i.e. furniture, pianos, washing machines etc. Garden refuse is also collected provided that the quantity is small and can be collected at the same time as the domestic refuse, otherwise a charge is made.

In accordance with the Civic Amenities Act 1967 two places where refuse etc. may be deposited by residents in the Rural District are situated near Dinnington Village to serve the eastern area of the district together with the north-east and south-east, and Kirkley disused gravel pit to serve the west, south-west and north-west. Experience over the year has shown that these sites are infrequently used. This being due possibly to the free service mentioned above.

In spite of all these facilities for the removal and disposal of waste and unwanted articles, dumping in field gateways and grass verges on the highway still persists. It can only be assumed that these litter louts are travelling in from adjoining districts.

As and from 27th July 1968 local authorities are required to remove any vehicle which appears to have been abandoned anywhere in the open air or any part of a highway. In this connection the owners of two abandoned cars were traced with the assistance of the police and the cars were subsequently removed. Five unwanted cars and two motor cycles were dealt with. Three cars were deposited on the Council refuse disposal point and two cars and motor cycles were collected by a scrap iron merchant.

In concluding these few remarks I wish to draw attention to an important factor in the economics of refuse collection : which is the siting of the dust bin. Naturally the dust bin should be located to suit the housewife. But the site should be a reasonable one from the view point of the refuse collector in that " the length of carry " should be kept to a minimum. Kerb side collection and the " skip " method is not practised in the district. Therefore every bin is sought from wherever it may be sited. On one estate the average length of " carry " is 25 yards, whilst in a number of cases it can extend to 100 yards. Another observation in connection with the collection and removal of trade waste from shops, more particularly premises where food is sold, is the limited storage space. This creates unnecessary difficulties in collection and tends to create general untidiness. Some day perhaps architects will get round to designing adequate storage accommodation which will be an advantage to all concerned.

### Septic Tank Emptying Service

This service is provided for dwellinghouses whose drainage systems can not be connected to a public sewer and is carried out by means of a



1,000 gallon four-wheel drive cesspool emptier. Domestic septic tanks are desludged free of charge twice a year : the service is available to farm and other commercial premises on payment. The equipment is also used as required at the Council sewage disposal works.

## Vehicles

The following vehicles are employed on the service :—

JNL 952	Shelvoke & Drewry	1955	18/25 cu. yds.	Rear loader fore and aft tipper. Diesel engine.
PNL 140	Karrier Bantam	1959	7 cu. yds.	Side loader. Diesel engine.
RTY 550	Karrier Gamecock	1960	18/25 cu. yds.	Rear loader fore and aft tipper. Diesel engine.
RJR 394	Thames Trader	1960	1,000 galls.	Cesspool emptier. Diesel engine.
WNL 796	Karrier Bantam	1962	10 cu. yds.	Side loader. Diesel engine.
YTY 269	Shelvoke & Drewry	1963	25 cu. yds.	Rear loader fore and aft tipper. Diesel engine.
CNL 257 B	Karrier Bantam	1964	10 cu. yds.	Side loader. Diesel engine.
ETY 590 C	Karrier Bantam	1965	10 cu. yds.	Side loader. Diesel engine.
JNL 279 D	Shelvoke & Drewry	1966	50 cu. yds.	Rear loader Pakamatic. Diesel engine.
LJR 840 E	Karrier Bantam	1967	10 cu. yds.	Side loader. Diesel engine.
PJR 389 F	Weatherill	1968	4-wheel drive	loading shovel. Diesel engine.

## Refuse Disposal

Disposal points are as follows :—

1. Belsay Quarry
2. Stobhill, Cheeseburn Grange.
3. Heddon-on-the-Wall.
4. Mill Hill, Dinnington.
5. Old Gravel Pit, Kirkley West Thorn.
6. Stannington

Fortunately accommodation for the disposal of domestic refuse is at present sufficient to cope with the quantities collected. The two most used and largest tipping sites are Mill Hill, Dinnington, which serves the Eastern and more densely populated area, and Old Gravel Pit, Kirkley West Thorn, where refuse from Ponteland district is deposited. The former site has an estimated ' life ' of 5 years and the latter 10 - 15 years.

A Mechanical Shovel is employed full time for the levelling and covering of the refuse.

**Cleansing Costs for the Year Ended 31st March, 1968**

Volume of refuse removed .. .. .	88,928 cu.yds.
Estimated weight of refuse removed .. .. .	11,116 tons
Approximate average weight per house per annum ..	20 cwts.
Average volume per house per annum .. .. .	8 cu. yds.
Average weight per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	16.75 cwts.
Total cost of collection and disposal (Refuse, Domestic, Trade and Salvage) and operation of septic tank emptying service .. .. .	£48,720 0 2
Less income from Salvage, Trade Refuse and chargeable work .. .. .	4,398 6 9
Nett Cleansing Cost .. .. .	£44,321 13 5

Refuse collection and disposal and septic tank emptying cost per house per annum .. .. .	£3 19 9
Refuse collection and disposal cost per head of population	£1 4 4
Cost on Rates in the £ .. .. .	8 1d

**Salvage**

Waste paper in the form of newsprint, cardboard cartons, books, etc. continues to be collected at the same time as the domestic refuse. It is unfortunate that it is not an economic proposition to operate a separate collection in a rural district of this size. Under these circumstances a percentage of salveageable paper is inevitably disposed of with the ordinary household waste. The collected waste paper is deposited daily at the Council Depot a section of which is devoted entirely to sorting, grading and storage. There are three grades, namely newspring, cardboard and mixed. Two electric driven "Crawford" 3 H.P. Fixed Box Baling Presses compress the salvage into 1 - 2 cwt. bales. Once a fortnight some 10 - 11 tons is collected and transported by road to paper mills in Aberdeen.

**Details of salvage disposed of :—**

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qtrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	£	s.	d.
Newsprint .. .. .	116	2	3		1,045	7	0
Fibreboard (cardboard) ..	119	12	0		1,140	11	9
Mixed Paper .. .. .	81	2	2		639	17	4
Mixed Scrap .. .. .	1	18	2		11	11	0
Rags .. .. .	4	7	2	14	61	6	10
Woollens .. .. .		3	3		24	19	9
Light Scrap .. .. .	4	17	—		29	2	0
Rejects .. .. .			1			3	6
	328	4	1	14	£2,952	19	2

## WATER SUPPLY

The Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company as the official water undertaker to the Council provide an adequate mains water supply throughout the district, with the exception of a number of isolated properties where connection to the Company's water mains could only be carried out at great expense and who therefore rely on their own private supply. In addition to these, houses in the villages of Capheaton and Belsay are served by their own privately owned water mains, the respective source of supply being a spring and borehole.

Water sampling for bacteriological examination is carried out at regular intervals throughout the district, most of this being directed at the private source of supplies. Where the water supply is found to be unsatisfactory action is taken to restore the supply to a wholesome condition or connect to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company's mains.

### Water Samples taken during the year for Bacteriological Examination

No. of Samples	Probable numbers per 100 ml.	
	Coliform bacilli	Bact. coli (type I)
10	Nil	Nil
2	11	—
1	13	—
1	25	—
1	35	—
1	50	—
4	180+	—

I am indebted to Mr. M. J. Lowther, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Engineer, Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company for the following information :—

“ A total of 1,162 works control samples from Whittle Dene and Henderson Filters were examined in the Company's laboratory during the year, and of these one was of “unsatisfactory” quality, two were “satisfactory”, and the remainder “excellent.”

In addition to the foregoing, 235 samples of water from Warkworth Filter Plant were examined, 312 from special fixed sampling points and 152 from random points in the area, all of which were of “excellent” quality.

The results of samples taken from various points within the Castle Ward Area were as follows :—

<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Classification</i>
Moot Law Reservoir.. ..	5	Excellent
Harlow Hill Reservoir .. ..	10	Excellent
Fenham Reservoir .. ..	7	Excellent
Whalton Reservoir .. ..	7	(6 Excellent (1 Satisfactory)
Walbottle Pumping Station.. ..	11	Excellent
Coquet Water Board.. ..	4	Excellent

The following new water pipes were laid in Castle Ward Rural District during the year :—

Brunswick Parish	13 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes.
	49 lin. yards of 4" dia. pipes.
	46 lin. yards of 6" dia. pipes.
North Gosforth Parish	73 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes.
	545 lin. yards of 4" dia. pipes.
	287 lin. yards of 6" dia. pipes.
Ponteland Parish	685 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes.
	991 lin. yards of 4" dia. pipes.
	7 lin. yards of 6" dia. pipes.
Stannington Parish	2 lin. yards of 2" dia. pipes.
	91 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes.
	255 lin. yards of 4" dia. pipes.
Woolsington Parish	168 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes.
	488 lin. yards of 4" dia. pipes.

The following premises within the added limits were connected during the year.

#### OPEN SUPPLY

Calvus Drive, Heddon-on-the-Wall.	12 connections.
Mr. C. Harrison, New Bungalow, Ingoe Village.	1 connection.
G.P.O. Telephone Exchange, Whalton.	1 connection.
Smiths Gore Ltd., Windy Walls Cottage, Dalton.	1 connection.
A Craigie & Sons, Temperence Site, Stannington.	8 connections.

#### METER SUPPLY

Heugh Farm, Stamfordham.  
 Windy Walls Farm, Dalton.  
 Brandywell Farm, Capheaton.  
 Mount Huly, Capheaton.  
 Sewage Works, Stannington.  
 North Low House Farm, Whalton.  
 Cairn House Farm, Dissington.



## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

A full time rodent operator is employed by the Council to ensure that the district is kept free from rat and mice infestations as required by this Act.

Infestations in dwellinghouses are dealt with free of charge, whilst business premises are charged for such services. In this connection £72 15s. was recovered for this work.

Though the Council sewers are found to be relatively free of rodent infestation, regular servicing is carried out.

The five refuse disposal points situated within the district are also regularly serviced. This keeps any rodent population down to a minimal level.

Area Liaison Committee meetings are regularly held under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. These enable any problems arising from this field of public health work to be fully discussed by the various authorities within the group.

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in the district ..	10,501	461
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.. ..	450	25
Number infested by (i) Rats .. ..	344	14
(ii) Mice .. ..	96	11
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification .. ..	310	24
Number infested by (i) Rats .. ..	268	16
(ii) Mice .. ..	42	8

## HOUSING

A recent survey carried out by Public Health Inspectors on loan, as it were, to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government showed that there are some 1,800,000 unfit houses in England and Wales which are in present day occupation. Fortunately, this district's contribution towards this vast number is minimal. All known unfit houses have already been dealt with under the Housing Acts. Over the last two decades over 500 houses have been demolished. To date 537 houses have been improved with the aid of discretionary and standard grants.

The process of raising the standard of housing continues, although at a slower pace. This has been partly due to the introduction of a Bill which makes further provision for grants by local authorities. It increases the maximum from £400 to £1,000 for discretionary grants, £1,200 for conversions and £155 basic to £200 for standard grants. I understand that the Ministry have allocated a sum of £40,000,000 for this work. Until the Bill becomes statute many schemes for improvement remain in abeyance.

I referred in the introduction to this report to the number of houses built for private ownership and those for letting by the Newcastle Corporation and Castle Ward R.D.C. Of the 10,962 houses in the district approximately 90% are sited in the south-east corner, all within seven to eight miles of the City centre. I respectfully suggest that the present restriction of housing development in the rural part (which is vast) should be relaxed. This observation is borne out by the frequent enquiries received in this department for "a house in the country." Now that a large percentage of the populace own their own cars transport difficulties have virtually disappeared ; transport to and from work no longer as as before presents a problem.

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## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

**HOUSING ACT, 1949. HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954  
RENT ACT, 1957. HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958  
(SECTIONS 30 - 33). HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959**

During the year, six dwellings were improved with grant assistance. These works included in each case the installation of a bathroom, hot and cold water supply, inside W.C. and drainage system. Where it was necessary, natural lighting was also improved.

The average cost per house of carrying out improvement works as distinct from items of repair amounted to £360 0s. 0d.

The total number of houses improved under this scheme is 479.

	<i>Discretionary Grants</i>	<i>Standard Grants</i>
(a) Applications submitted to local authority during year .. ..	6	10
(b) Applications rejected .. ..	—	—
(c) Applications withdrawn .. ..	—	—
(d) Applications approved .. ..	6	12
(e) Total number of properties improved in the area since inception of scheme .. .. .	479	58

### Standard Grants

Under the Standard Grant scheme, the maximum grant available for the installation of five amenities, namely, hot water system, W.C., bath, wash-hand basin, and food store is £155.

In certain defined circumstances where additional works are necessary to provide a bathroom by building a new extension, installing a septic tank where main drainage is not available, or bringing a piped water supply into a dwelling for the first time, the grant may be increased to 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £350.

During the year 10 Standard Grants were completed, bringing the total number to 58.

## HOUSING CONSOLIDATION REGULATIONS 1925/32

1.	No. of houses unfit for human habitation .. .. .	—
2.	No. of houses where defects were remedied by informal action .. .. .	126
3.	No. of representations made to the Council with a view to :-	
	(a) service of notices requiring the execution of works ..	—
	(b) making demolition or closing orders .. .. .	—
4.	No. of notices served requiring the execution of works ..	126
5.	No. of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices ..	—
6.	No. of demolition or closing orders made .. .. .	—
7.	No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	—
8.	No. of houses demolished .. .. .	2

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

### CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

#### PROPOSED SMOKE CONTROL ORDER

Atmospheric pollution is a subject of some considerable importance and over recent years more and more people have become aware of this fact. It is no longer news to be informed that the domestic open fire burning bituminous fuel is largely responsible for atmospheric pollution.

Whilst as a rural district the overall picture might be considered favourable when a comparison is made with neighbouring authorities, it is nevertheless apparent that in certain parts where the density of housing is greatest, higher concentrations of particulate and gaseous pollutions are present.

Such an area exists in the southern portion of Newbiggin Hall Estate, where throughout this housing development approximately two-thirds of the properties already have heating appliances which comply with the Clean Air Act.

The No. 1 Newbiggin Hall/Whorlton Grange Smoke Control Order has therefore been proposed, involving some 3,245 properties. A detailed survey carried out during the year showed that 1,086 conversions are necessary under Section 12 of the Act, of which 1,027 are owned by the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne.

On the grounds that this area, comprising 306 acres can be regarded as an extension of Smoke Control Areas already in existence within the neighbouring authorities, the Minister of Housing and Local Government approved in principle the initial procedure necessary to implement the proposed 'Order.' At the same time, however, the Minister did intimate that for the present, consideration would not be given towards the formation of any further smoke control areas within this district.

It is envisaged that the operative date for the Smoke Control Order proposed will not be before 1st October 1970.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION—PONTELAND

The volumetric gauge sited at the Council Offices, Ponteland, continues to function satisfactorily, and reproduced overleaf is a table showing the monthly maximum, minimum and average concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide during 1968. A comparative table is also shown of monthly averages of sulphur dioxide and smoke concentrations compiled with the kindly assistance of the Health and Social Services Department of the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne and the Health Department of Newburn Urban District Council.



SMOKE AND SO<sub>2</sub> AVERAGES  
(Microgrammes/cubic metre)  
PONTELAND

DATE	SMOKE			S.O. 2		
	Max.	Min.	Averages	Max.	Min.	Average
1968						
January ..	138	8	45.5	58	11	36.9
February ..	133	8	63.1	128	24	62.5
March ..	206	3	37.3	50	11	27.1
April ..	84	10	40.2	39	—	20.5
May ..	70	10	27.1	44	12	29.6
June..	70	8	30.7	92	12	51.5
July..	57	8	23.4	90	42	62.5
August ..	43	9	21.4	78	44	63.8
September ..	66	7	31.0	130	45	62.7
October ..	164	4	47.9	94	13	44.6
November ..	132	11	55.4	94	20	50.0
December ..	157	12	67.8	67	11	41.0

COMPARATIVE TABLE — 1968 MONTHLY AVERAGE

SMOKE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Ponteland ..	45.5	63.1	37.3	40.2	27.1	30.7	23.4	21.4	31.0	47.9	55.4	67.8
Westerhope ..	165	223	136	103	108	73	69	71	109	122	187	224
Blakelaw..	129.9	131	69	79	50	57	47	42	60.9	60.	86.5	220.5
New Bridge St. ..	62.5	66	17	18	27	61	63	42	77.6	103.7	137	—

  

S.O.2	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Ponteland ..	36.9	62.5	27.1	20.5	29.6	51.5	62.5	63.8	62.7	44.6	50.0	41.0
Westerhope ..	122	166	134	131	99	94	72	69	67	87	166	181
Blakelaw..	45.1	41	39	38	42	48	32	27	16.3	19.3	28	188.4
New Bridge St. ..	122.8	116	111	103	85	117	116	92	82.7	141.3	147	—

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The total number of registered premises at the end of the year was 136, an increase of 10 on last year's figure. Of this total, 12 premises were registered during the year.

The number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year was 136, and the total number of visits of all kinds was 168.

#### Number and Type of Premises Registered :

CLASS OF PREMISES	Number of premises registered during year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises inspected during year
Offices .. ..	1	33	33
Retail Shops ..	11	80	80
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	—	1	1
Catering Establishments and Canteens .. ..	—	22	22
Fuel Storage Depots .. ..	—	—	—
Totals ..	12	136	136

#### Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises :

CLASS OF WORK PLACE	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
Offices .. .. .	289
Retail Shops .. .. .	351
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses ..	1
Catering Establishments .. ..	175
Canteens .. .. .	—
Fuel Storage Depots .. .. .	—
Total ..	816
Total Males ..	322
Total Females ..	494

No applications were received during the year for exemptions in respect of space, temperature, sanitary conveniences and washing facilities. The number of exemptions current at the end of the year thus remained at nil.

No prosecutions were instituted during 1968, and the number of informal notices served and complied with was three. In addition to this, several contraventions of a minor nature, i.e. omission to provide an abstract of the Act, or a thermometer, were dealt with verbally and remedied immediately by the owner of the business concerned.

**ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT 1963**

There are no animal boarding establishments in the district.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1894  
GAME ACT 1831 (LICENCE TO DEAL IN GAME)**

One game dealer's licence was issued during the year. This allows the holder to buy game from any person so authorised and to sell it from their own property within the district.

**SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964**

No applications were received in respect of the above Act during the year.

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

There are 77 factories in the district. The following tables show the number of inspections and defects found during the period under review

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	6	9	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	71	75	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	77	84	—	—

## Defects Found

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				
	Found	Re-medied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness ..	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	7	7	—	—	—



The following report has been provided by the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. G. E. Dimmack, M.I.Mun.E., M.I.P.H.E. :—

## **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

### **1. Matfen**

The proposed scheme to provide a new sewage treatment works, together with a completely separate foul sewerage system to serve this Village, including the Cheshire Homes at Matfen Hall has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and tenders have been invited for the carrying out of the works. Subject to the Ministry's approval it is hoped to commence construction works during the Spring of 1969.

### **2. Stannington Village**

Plans have been approved for the extension of private housing development at Stannington Village and this will require the newly completed works to be doubled in size. A survey is at present in hand covering the anticipated future development of this Village for the next 10 to 15 years.

### **3. Brunswick — Industrial Development**

Progress has been made during the year on the proposed re-development of the 50 acres of land on which was located the former Dinnington Colliery together with the colliery spoil heap. The work of clearing the site is expected to commence in the Spring of 1969 and will be followed by the laying out of roads and sewers for the ultimate use of industrialists wishing to establish their premises in the area. The foul sewage discharge will be to Longbenton U.D.C. and thence to the sewers of the Seaton Burn Valley Joint Sewerage Board.

### **4. Adoption of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works**

During the year newly constructed foul and surface water sewerage systems serving small residential developments at Darras Hall, Brunton Park and Woosington, have been adopted for maintenance at the public expense as part of the public drainage system.

**5.** At the 31st December, 1968 the Council controlled 23 sewage treatment works as follows :—

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Belsay                   | 13. Milbourne (Hall Farm)     |
| 2. Berwick Hill             | 14. Milbourne (Village)       |
| 3. Capheaton                | 15. Ogle                      |
| 4. Dalton                   | 16. Ponteland (Collingwood    |
| 5. Fenwick                  | 17. Ryal Cottages)            |
| 6. Harlow Hill              | 18. Stamfordham               |
| 7. Heddon Hall              | 19. Stannington Station Road  |
| 8. Heddon-on-the-Wall       | 20. Stannington Village       |
| 9. Ingoe                    | 21. Stannington—Netherton     |
| 10. Kirkheaton              | 22. Wallridge Training School |
| 11. Matfen (Standing Stone) | 23. Whalton                   |
| 12. Milbourne (Belsay Road) |                               |

together with 10 pumping stations through which sewage is passed to either sewage treatment works or the Seaton Burn Valley Joint Sewerage Board or to the Ouseburn Sewer of the Newcastle Corporation.

The following table gives an indication of the mileage of the various foul and surface water sewers together with pumping mains that are maintained by the Rural District Council :—

LOCATION	Separate Systems		Combined	Pumping Mains	No. of Manholes
	Foul	Surface Water			
	Length of Sewers in Lin. Yards				
BELSAY .. ..			733		11
BERWICK HILL ..			467		7
BRUNTON PARK ..	6781	7067			243
BURN CLOSE .. ..			3220		39
CAPHEATON .. ..			392		6
DALTON .. ..			157		3
DARRAS HALL ..	23094	20952		62	4319
DINNINGTON .. ..	9083	4936		3387	67
FENWICK .. ..	340				5
FRENCHMAN'S ROW ..			600		5
HAZLERIGG .. ..	752	1126	3015		81
HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL		677	9761	545	189
KENTON BANK FOOT..	269	295	2600		44
KIRKHEATON .. ..			400		16
MILBOURNE .. ..	476				7
OGLE .. ..			953		11
PONTELAND .. ..	8081	6231	7641	3163	451
RYAL .. ..	362				6
STAMFORDHAM ..	449	372	3855	30	75
STANNINGTON.. ..			7523	727	57
STANDING STONE ..	175				5
WHALTON .. ..	103	103	883		12
WOOLSINGTON ..	3471	756	18657		386
WHORLTON GRANGE ..	3279	2724			121
TOTALS .. ..	53882	42515	59057	7914	2153
Equivalent Mileage of each type ..	30.30	24.16	33.60	4.60	

TOTAL MILEAGE OF ALL TYPES — 92.66.



## 6. Disposal of Sewage to Neighbouring Authorities

### (a) GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

893 Houses at Brunton and Melton Park together with the sewage from the Gosforth Park Hotel, discharge to sewers belonging to the Gosforth Urban District Council and also directly to the Ouseburn Sewer.

### (b) SEATON BURN VALLEY JOINT SEWERAGE BOARD

The total number of premises now draining to the East and West Pumping Stations at Dinnington and from Hazlerigg and Brunswick Village to the Longbenton U.D.C. Sewer at Seaton Burn School was 1,274 at the 31st December, 1968.

### (c) NEWBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The total number of properties now connected to this Authority's Sewer is 47.

### (d) CITY AND COUNTY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

#### (i) BRUNTON PARK

Total number of houses discharging to the Ouseburn Sewer is 419 (This figure is included in the gross figure referred to above in paragraph (a) ).

#### (ii) NEWBIGGIN HALL ESTATE

2,119 Houses and Flats discharge by gravity to the Ouseburn Sewer via the Council's Trunk Sewer from Brunton Bridge to Point ' Z ' at Fawdon.

#### (iii) NEWBIGGIN HALL ESTATE (PHASE 1A)

905 Houses and Flats discharge by gravity to the Black Swine Sewer at Denton Burn.

#### (iv) WHORLTON GRANGE ESTATE

276 Houses, 8 Factories and 1 Service Station discharge by gravity to the Ouseburn Sewer via the Council's Trunk Sewer at Brunton Bridge.

#### (v) PONTELAND, DARRAS HALL, WOOLSINGTON MAIN DRAINAGE

Sewage discharges by gravity and pumping to the head of the Corporation's Ouseburn Sewer, the present average rate of flow being approximately 1.5 million gallons per day.

## 7. General Remarks

Now that the Matfen Sewage scheme is nearing a stage when the approval of the Ministry can be looked forward to then the last remaining major sewage construction work will have been programmed and the standard of sewerage and sewage disposal facilities throughout the Rural District will be to a completely satisfactory standard to meet modern requirements.

### SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED — PRIVY CONVERSIONS

There have been 10 conversions of privies to the water carriage system at the undermentioned premises carried out as part of the improvement works under the Housing Acts 1949/64 :—

1 and 2 Close Lea, Wylam.  
 Westgate, Higham Dykes, Ponteland.  
 North Carter Moor Farm, Ponteland.  
 Two Cottages, Black Callerton.  
 Wallhouses Farm Cottage, Matfen.  
 3 and 4 Shotton Edge Cottages, Seaton Burn.  
 Newhouse Farm, Capheaton.

### CONCLUSION

To the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and to Dr. H. C. T. Smith, I express my thanks for the support and confidence rendered me throughout the year, and to all Chief Officers and Officers for their co-operation.

I am appreciative of the assistance of my colleagues in the department whose long experience and expertise enables the work to run smoothly and efficiently.

I regret having to record the sudden death of Miss Mabel Douglas, Senior Clerk Typist. Miss Douglas was a polio victim at an early age and although severely handicapped succeeded in pursuing a secretarial career. She was efficient and conscientious in her work and possessed a most pleasing personality. We all miss her very much.

Mrs. O. Newton was appointed in Miss Douglas' place in September 1968 and is ably assisted by Mrs. A. Ridley whose work I have always found to be most satisfactory.







